CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION

We claim,

1. An apparatus for a retrieval of alternative data in the case of a faulty request of a client to a server in a packet-based network,

   a. with a network interface which enables a data stream between the client and the server to be analysed,

   b. with a processing unit which checks the data stream following the request of the client, wherein a data pattern that indicates an error message from the server is blocked and replaced by alternative data, wherein said alternative data depends on the content and type of request, wherein said alternative data will be sent to the client using the network interface.

2. An apparatus for a retrieval of alternative data, in particular a proxy, in the case of a faulty DNS or URL request of a client to a server in a IP network,

   a. with a network interface which enables a IP data stream between the client and the server to be analysed,

   b. with a processing unit which checks the data stream following the DNS or URL request of the client, wherein a data pattern that indicates an error message from the server is blocked and replaced by alternative data, wherein said alternative data is an IP address or a HTML page depending on the content and type of request, wherein said alternative data will be sent to the client using the network interface .

3.   The apparatus of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said alternative data will be loaded from a database, and wherein said alternative data is determined by searches on the nature, content, and/or type of the request.

5   4.   The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said database is a common search engine in the internet.

5.   The apparatus of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said client is a client-computer, which is equipped with a client program, like a web browser, an FTP client, and/or a gopher client, and wherein said server is a Domain-Name-Server, a web server, an FTP server, or a gopher server.

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6.   The apparatus of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said apparatus is integrated in a proxy, and/or a DNS server, and/or in a client-computer.

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7.   The apparatus of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the client's request is recorded to determine said alternative data by a search in said database, and wherein information of the recorded request is used.

20   8.   The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said alternative data can be alternative domain names, IP addresses, URLs, and/or data from alternative internet servers such as ad-servers, wherein in the case of a faulty DNS request the error message will be replaced by an IP address, and wherein said IP address refers to a second server

which provides a second, more specific piece of alternative information.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said second server will serve the second alternative data depending on the replaced IP address or depending on the IP address, which shows up on the client's computer.

10. A process, for the retrieval of alternative data in the case of a faulty request of a client to a server in a packet-based network,

   a. with a step in which a stream of data between said client and said server is analysed,

   b. with a further step in which an error message from said server caused by a faulty request of said client is blocked,

   c. with a further step in which alternative data is produced, depending on the nature and/or content of said request,

   d. with a further step in which said alternative data, not the server's original response, will be sent to the client.

11. A process, in particular used by a proxy, for the retrieval of alternative data in the case of a faulty DNS request or URL request of a client to a server in a IP network,

   a. with a step in which data packets between said client and said server are analysed,

   b. with a further step in which an error message from said server in the case of a faulty request by the client is blocked,

c. with a further step in which alternative data in form of an IP address or a HTML page is produced, wherein the alternative data depends on the nature and/or content of said request,

d. with a further step in which said alternative data, not the server's original
5   response, will be sent to the client.

12. The process of Claim 10 or Claim 11, wherein the alternative data is loaded from a data-base, wherein the search is based on information about the request, and wherein the data-base can be based on a common search engine in the internet.

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13. The process of Claim 10 or Claim 11, wherein the client is a computer, which is equipped with a web browser, FTP client, and/or gopher client, and wherein the server is a DNS server, a web server, and/or a gopher server.

15   14. The process of Claim 10 or Claim 11, characterized by an integration into a proxy-process or a DNS-resolution-process.

15. The process of Claim 10 or Claim 11, wherein the request is recorded to enable the search for alternative data based on the recorded information.

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16. The process of Claim 10 or Claim 11, wherein an error message from a DNS server in response to faulty request will be replaced by an IP address, wherein said IP address refers to a certain error-server, which serves depending on the nature and

content of the request a second, more specific piece of alternative data.

17. The process of Claim 16, wherein the second, more specific alternative data is related to the IP address of the error-server, wherein the error-server is multihomed, or the more specific alternative data is related to the IP address, which shows up on the client's computer.

18. Computer readable disk, characterized by a computer loadable data structure, that enables the computer to execute the processes described in Claim 10 or 11.

List of Reference Numerals:

10. Network (e.g. internet)

11. Client Computer

12. Network-Interface

13. Error-Scanner

14. Data-Base

15. Additional-Information-Server; Banner-Server

16. Web-Server with Web-Site

17. Information Request Program, Browser

18. Processing Unit

19. Alternative Data